

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2002 (BOS Mtg. 11/19/02)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Speed Limit Provisions – Sherwood Forest, Heron’s Walk and Greenlands

Issue

Requests and petitions for establishment of the \$200 Additional Speeding Penalty have been received from the following neighborhoods:

- ? **Sherwood Forest** – letter from Homeowners Association, dated August 23, 2002, requesting the designation for Robin Hood Drive.
- ? **Heron’s Walk** – letter from residents, dated October 26, 2002, requesting the designation for Sanctuary Cove and Denise Drive (located in Tidemill Estates).
- ? **Greenlands** – letter from Homeowners Association, dated November 4, 2002, requesting designation for Blevins Run, Tristen Drive, Hilda Hollow and Jonathan Junction.

Background

In 1996 the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted a policy and procedures for the installation of signs advising of a maximum \$200 penalty for exceeding the posted speed limit on certain residential streets. These procedures require that a formal request for establishment of the \$200 fine provision be submitted by resolution of the Board of Supervisors. To qualify, a street must meet the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) definition of “local residential” or “residential collector” prescribed in the policy and must have a posted speed limit of 35 MPH or lower. The policy includes definitions intended to encompass only those streets that are predominantly residential in nature and also requires that residential units face the street and have driveway connections to it. The Board’s request to VDOT for establishment of the restrictions must identify the specific road segments to be covered, confirm that the segments meet the definitions, note that a speeding problem exists, and document that the increased penalty has community support. If the request is approved, VDOT will install the necessary regulatory sign. Since 1997 the Board has adopted resolutions requesting VDOT to designate over forty (40) streets in County neighborhoods for the \$200 speeding fine.

Considerations

Sherwood Forest: The Sheriff's Department has recently conducted speed monitoring and enforcement in Sherwood Forest along Robin Hood Drive, resulting in the issuance of one (1) citation. Robin Hood Drive is a "local" residential street with residential driveways and a posted speed limit of 25 MPH, therefore meeting the established VDOT criteria for designation. Although the enforcement records do not indicate a significant problem at the present time, the relatively long and gently curving roadway is conducive to upwardly creeping speeds and, undoubtedly, the HOA's request has been prompted by problems residents have observed when law enforcement is not present. While traffic on Robin Hood Drive is currently almost exclusively that of residents, vehicles from outside Sherwood Forest will probably use the street once the connection into the developing sections of Running Man is completed. The increased penalty for speeding designation would represent a proactive traffic-calming approach to help ensure that the interconnection functions as intended. It should be noted that the primary streets in both of the adjoining developments (Running Man and Wythe Creek Farms) have also been so designated. Because of the circumstances noted above, and because of the proven traffic-calming value of the designation, staff believes it would be reasonable and appropriate to request the special designation now, rather than later.

Heron's Walk: The Sheriff's Department has recently conducted speed monitoring and enforcement in Heron's Walk along Sanctuary Cove, resulting in the issuance of three (3) citations. Sanctuary Cove and Denise Drive (technically, part of Tide Mill Estates subdivision) are both "local" residential streets with residential driveways and a posted speed limit of 25 MPH, therefore meeting the VDOT criteria. Sanctuary Cove and Denise Drive provide a connection between Yorktown Road and Tidemill Road. Tidemill Road was designated for the increased penalty in 2001, primarily because of traffic associated with Tabb High School as well as the public boat landing at the end of Tidemill. As noted in the attached petition from the residents of Heron's Walk, school-related cut-through traffic is also their primary concern. Because Sanctuary Cove and Denise Drive provide a route attractive to non-resident traffic, and since they connect with Tidemill Road, which is already designated, staff believes that it would be reasonable and appropriate to request that the special speeding penalty be established.

Greenlands: The attached letter from the Greenlands Homeowners Association mentions Blevins Run, Tristen Drive, Hilda Hollow and Jonathan Junction as the primary streets of concern. As the Board is aware, the Greenlands is still under development, which means the neighborhood is experiencing construction-related traffic, home sales traffic, as well as resident traffic. Street connections to Tabb Lakes via Jonathan Junction and Hilda Hollow are in place and a future connection will be made to Blackberry Bend in Coventry. Certain streets in both Tabb Lakes and Coventry already have been designated for the increased speeding penalty and the designation has proven to be a very effective traffic-calming measure. Because the Greenlands streets are (or will be) interconnected to streets in Tabb Lakes and Coventry that are subject to the designation, and because they likely will carry non-resident traffic destined for the Library or YMCA they would appear to be candidates for the designation. However, as of this date, only Tristen Drive and Jonathan Junction have been officially accepted into the VDOT Secondary System, so only those two are eligible for the designation. Furthermore, although the HOA and residents have noted that a speeding problem exists, the Sheriff's Department has no records of any citations being issued on the subject streets. Nevertheless, because of the traffic calming benefits and to be proac-

tive, staff recommends that the Board request establishment of the special penalty designation on the following streets:

- ? Tristen Lane
- ? Jonathan Junction (both in Greenlands and Tabb Lakes)

Staff recommends that the other streets in the subdivision be monitored closely. If, after completion and acceptance into the Secondary System a problem is documented or expected, staff would recommend forwarding a request for their inclusion as well.

Recommendation

Although the Sherwood Forest and Greenlands requests involve streets where there is little or no documentation in the form of speeding citations, I am inclined to support the residents' requests as a proactive measure and to provide continuity with the designations that apply in the adjacent developments. Therefore, I recommend that the Board endorse these requests for the establishment of the increased penalty provisions through the adoption of proposed Resolution R02-196 and forward it to VDOT with a request for approval.

Carter/3337

Attachments

- ? Letter from Sherwood Forest HOA
- ? Sherwood Forest Area Map
- ? Letter from Heron's Walk residents
- ? Heron's Walk Area Map
- ? Letter from Greenlands HOA
- ? Greenlands Area Map
- ? List of previously-approved \$200 additional fine roads
- ? Proposed Resolution No. R02-196